



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

No. 46

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the center of our hope, as the Russian war against Ukraine reaches its 20th day, we keep our eyes on You. We thank You for Your might, majesty, and power. You are the source of our strength, and the hope for all our tomorrows.

As our lawmakers strive to do their best for freedom, make them worthy of their high calling. May the lure of expediency never tempt them to betray the highest principles.

Lord, use our Senators to build a better and more peaceful Nation and world. May they maintain the fidelity of those to whom much has been given.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so the Senate this week will continue fulfilling its constitutional duty to confirm more of the President's judicial and administrative nominees. Yesterday, I filed cloture on 12 additional nominees, setting up a busy rest of the week here on the floor. Absent an agreement to expedite the process—and, unfortunately, we have seen all too few of those coming from our Republican colleagues—Members can expect to begin voting tomorrow morning, and we will work through all 12 nominees until we have a path to getting them confirmed.

Due to the months of obstructive holds by a few—just a handful of Republicans—in addition to judicial nominees, we also must use up floor time to confirm U.S. attorneys, something practically unheard of in the Senate. These Republicans who have delayed our U.S. attorneys are actively making our communities less safe, and it is regrettable they have chosen to obstruct the Senate for their own personal political interests. So my colleagues ought to be prepared for a busy few days here on the floor.

Now, among the nominees we will consider are two great nominees from New York, I am proud to say. One, we will consider Judge Ali Nathan, nominated to serve as judge for the Second Circuit. She is a brilliant jurist with a decade of experience as a district judge, and I was proud to recommend her to sit on one of the most important courts in the Nation.

I am also pleased that the Senate will also vote on Hector Gonzalez to serve as district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Born in Cuba, raised in Queens, and a Fulbright scholar who became one of New York's top attorneys, Mr. Gonzalez is the very embodiment of the American dream; and, like Judge Nathan, I am glad to have recommended him to President Biden.

I am also glad to note, under Senator DURBIN's leadership, Judge Nathan and Mr. Gonzalez received bipartisan support in committee, so I look forward to the Senate confirming them in short order.

But first, the Senate will look to make history, once again, later today by confirming Shalanda Young to serve as President Biden's Director of the Office of Management and Budget, a Cabinet-level position. She would be the first Black woman ever confirmed by the Senate to lead the OMB.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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